

## **REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, Claims 5-7 and 16-18 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 4, 15, and 23 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-22 are pending and under consideration.

### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 1-3, 8-14 and 19-22 are allowed, and that claims 5-7 and 16-18 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

In response, claims 5-7 are amended to recite all the features previously in claim 4 from which claims 5-7 depended prior to this amendment, and claims 16-18 are amended to recite all the features previously in claim 15 from which claims 16-18 depended prior to this amendment.

In view of the indication in the Office Action, amended claims 5-7 and 16-18 are allowable.

### **CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No 5,504,759 to Inoue et al (hereinafter "Inoue") in view of Chen (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0136538). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Chen and Onodera (U.S. Patent No. 4,253,143). Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Chen, Koizumi (U.S. Patent 5,225,909) and Roth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,212,678).

Claims 4, 15, and 23 are cancelled herewith without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. The claim cancellation renders the rejections moot.

### **CONCLUSION**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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